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Twin suicide blasts kill 92 in Pakistan's Quetta: police

QUETTA, Pakistan (AFP) - Bomb attacks killed 92 people in Pakistan's city of Quetta on Thursday, as twin suicide bombers targeted a snooker hall frequented by Shiites in the deadliest single attack in the country for nearly two years.

At least 92 people were killed and 121 wounded when two suicide bombers blew themselves up at the crowded club in an area of the southwestern city dominated by members of the Shiite Muslim community, a senior police officer said.

It was one of the worst single attacks ever on the minority community, which account for around 20 percent of Pakistan's 180-million strong population.

It was the deadliest attack in Pakistan since twin suicide bombers killed 98 people outside a police training centre in the northwestern town of Shabqadar on May 13, 2011 -- shortly after US troops killed Osama bin Laden.

The double suicide blasts came hours after a bomb ripped

through a security forces' vehicle in a crowded part of the city, killing 11 people and wounding dozens more.

According to the US-based Human Rights Watch, 2012 was the deadliest year on record for Shiites in Pakistan.

The organisation late Thursday called the government's failure to protect the community, which account for around 20 percent of the population.

Worst storms in decade bring Mideast to near standstill

BEIRUT (AFP) - The worst storms in a decade left swathes of Israel and Jordan under a blanket of snow and parts of Lebanon blacked out on Thursday, bringing misery to a region accustomed to temperate climates.

Freezing temperatures and floods since Sunday have claimed at least 11 lives across the region and exacerbated the plight of hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees huddled in tented camps in Jordan, Turkey and Lebanon.

Hard Rock Hotel & Casino project almost ready for construction start up



The government has recently reported on the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino project. They have indicated that practically all the necessary requirements set by the evaluation Commission have been met with the exception of but a few details. In a meeting planned to take place on Monday, they will discuss certain details which must be included in the agreement so that the property of the former Bushiri complex can be transferred to the Southwest group.

The government explained that this process is somewhat different from other hotel projects of the

past. Other past projects were signed off for vacant land areas with no edifice on them. In the case of Bushiri, there is a building complex on the terrain, although the building is practically worthless and would have to be demolished by any developer. Despite this fact, according to our laws of accountability, that building has some value. That value has to be reflected in the agreement that the group will be signing.

According to the government, the impact of a Hard Rock for Aruba will be great over a wide range of aspects. One aspect is a moral aspect in the sense that currently the building sitting on the site is an ugly ruin for tourists and

locals passing by.

Another aspect of its impact is that the new project will generate additional income and rooms inventory which we badly need. There are various peak moments when we don't have enough rooms.

A third impact is that the new hotel will open up a new market, a market of persons of the younger generation who can afford to pay the prices of rooms that a Hard Rock Hotel demands.

Just like the Ritz Carlton (which is expected to open its doors in October) focuses on a specific market, so does a Hard Rock Hotel. This will help to diversify the tourist attraction for Aruba



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Aruban Police take the bite out of crime



Serial killers and killer pit-bulls were graphically shown and discussed at this weekend's FORENSIC DENTISTRY lecture given at the International Center for Advanced Education, sponsored by Walker Orthodontics.

Minister of Justice, Mr. Drs. Arthur Dowers and his team of Special Investigative Police, Prosecutors, and Criminologists joined 15 local Dentists in this provocative 2 day lecture.

The guest lecturers are the world renowned Dr. Richard Souviron and Dr. William Silver, Chief and Deputy Forensic Odontologists, Metro Dade County Florida Medical Examiner Department, (Miami, Fla.).

Their combined experience in using dental records and bite marks provided a riveting presentation on the identification of missing persons, victims of criminal violence, criminal conviction and unidentified remains of mass disaster victims.

When bodies and body parts are found, the police and medical examiner must determine without a doubt who the person is, how they died and why! The importance of good dental records, showing missing teeth, crooked teeth, implants and restorations (fillings) are the clues that can solve the mystery.

The families and insurance companies must know as soon as possible.

Dr's Silver and Souviron's firsthand experience onsite after Hurricane Katrina, the ValueJet crash in the Everglades and World Trade Center showed the organization of support teams necessary to deal with the victims of those unexpected disasters.

Compelling situations, bringing attention to our need to be prepared for the unthinkable possibility of a plane crash at the airport or nearby offshore, cruise ship disasters happen while in port and offshore, possibility of a rogue hurricane, considering the effect of our heavy rains.

How are the victims handled, collected, stored, identified and disposed of...onto or off island????

Another provocative topic presented is the importance of Forensic Dentistry in solving crimes. Bite marks on victims confirm the violent nature of the act. The mark left on the victim can be recorded and used to prove the guilt or innocence of an accused person. The trained dentist assist the police in the investigation and testifies with the evidence in court.

Killers are convicted on this evidence and innocent persons, wrongfully convicted, on death row have

been released. The most notorious serial killer ever, Ted Bundy, 40 known victims, was convicted and executed, with the expert evidence provided by Dr. Souviron.

An important piece of advice from Dr. Souviron: "IF YOU ARE BEING ATTACKED IN A RAPE ATTEMPT....BITE HIM!" No defense then for 'Consent' with the assailant!!!

Biting also includes animal attacks. Specifically presented were documented deaths caused by Pit Bull dogs. Lethal attacks upon owners, neighbors and strangers led to Miami Dade County banning ownership of the Pit Bull breed. Penalties to an owner range from a misdemeanor to felony.

This program left everyone attending with their own ideas for their homework, what each must do in the immediate future to prepare our community for the unforeseen disasters and how to protect the innocent and secure the guilty in crimes.

A very special thanks to Suzie Nuboer, Sui Lin Martinus and Josephine van Ammers who put this event together and the Minister of Justice, Mr. Drs. Arthur Dowers, who brought together Aruba's finest law enforcement team and the selfless committed Dentists serving our community.

US will stand by Afghanistan, Panetta tells Karzai

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States sought to assure Afghan President Hamid Karzai on Thursday that it would remain committed to his country even as US officials weigh a major withdrawal of American forces.

After an elaborate military ceremony for Karzai outside the Pentagon, US Defense Secretary Leon Panetta told his "distinguished visitor" that more than 10 years of war had paved the way for Afghanistan to stand on its own.

"After a long and difficult past, we finally are, I believe, at the last chapter of establishing a sovereign Afghanistan that can govern and secure itself for the future," Panetta said.

"We've come a long way towards a shared goal of establishing a nation that you and we can be proud of, one that never again becomes a

safe haven for terrorism," he said at the outset of his talks with Karzai.

Since US-led troops toppled the Taliban from power in 2001 following the September 11 attacks, the Afghan president has had a stormy relationship with his US allies, and American officials are anxious to demonstrate Washington's full-fledged support during his visit.

In his talks this week, Karzai is expected to push for a substantial US military presence in Afghanistan after 2014, when the NATO-led mission is due to end.

But some officials in the White House favor a light footprint of several thousand troops after 2014, and Ben Rhodes, a deputy national security adviser, even suggested Tuesday that the United States might pull out all of its troops.

Announcement of the Aruba Police Force regarding the sale of goods during Carnaval events

Everyone who files a petition to sell goods during the Carnaval 2013 season must have the following:

1. A passport photo
2. Afls 5 Census paper (Census Office)
3. Valid I.D. or a work permit
4. An Afls 4 stamp
5. The license fee is Afls 225, when its done one will be called to pick up and pay.

For information and to get the petition forms interested persons can go to the Palace of Justice at Macuarima from Monday to Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. For additional information readers may contact Ms. Milly Dirks at tel. 5272900. The last day to file a petition is January 24,

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Man, 94, bolts German clinic in search of birthday beer

MUNICH, Germany, Jan 10, 2013 (AFP) - A 94-year-old pensioner broke out of hospital in Munich so he could belatedly celebrate his birthday in one of the German city's famous beer halls, police said Thursday. A passer-by noticed the elderly man at an underground rail station on Wednesday as he still had an intravenous drip needle implanted in his left hand. He took the slightly dazed man to transport authorities who called the police.

"After several calls, it emerged that the pensioner had bolted from a Munich clinic," police said in a statement. "He himself said he was on his way to a beer hall to have a belated birthday celebration."

Police said the man was then returned to the hospital, where doctors agreed to allow him to have the tall, frothy beverage of his choice.

With a total of 22 Caisos and 61 Sucas participating:

Entrance tickets for Aruba's biggest Carnaval event: Caiso & Soca Monarch are here!



The Music Foundation, "Stichting Musica" has announced that the official tickets for the Grand Carnaval music event are on sale. As has been reported, the well-known Calypso and Roadmarch contest this year is

final nights. The final night will be Saturday, January 19th. All events will take place in the Joe Laveist Sportspark in San Nicolaas. The public has two entrance ticket options. They can purchase tickets for each night,



being organized by the Stichting Musica and has been renamed: Aruba Caiso & Soca Monarch. This grand event begins next week Tuesday, January 15, 2013.

There will be three pre-

or they can buy a package for a 4-night access to the musical events.

Tickets are available at: **Plaza Bookshop, Cliffix, CD & More, Superfood, WEMA, Valero Boulevard,**

Valero Essoville, Gallo Rojo, MY USA, Fun Miles and Dragon CD & Electronics.

Last Sunday the registered bands chose the particular sequence for each night. On Tuesday, the 15th of January the bands Tsunami, Le Groove, Youth Extreme, Upgrade and Je'o will perform. On Wednesday 16th, Simplemente Pabo, Claudio & Oreo, Virus Band, XC Lanz, Hot Ones Band and D'licious will be next on stage. On the final night of the pre-final, The Failures, D.U.R.O., NBO, Aruba Invaders, This and That, Zeta Band, Dushi Band and Robert Jeandor y su Solo Banda Show will conclude the line up of music and bands.

Present at the news conference was Erik Jan Eman representing Purple Entertainment Group. This company will be in charge of all the logistics. Eman indicated that this year the musicians will experience a very accommodating and practical area behind the stage. Also, for the first time, the audience will experience in this largest festival no less than 36 moving lights, which will

provide a spectacular lighting effect on stage.

Stichting Musica was particularly pleased to announce their sponsors for this grand festival. Among the sponsors are Setar NV who will be offering the festival a pay per view via cable as well as via internet for foreing viewers.

Romar Trading will ensure that all bars are well stocked with Heineken beer. Other sponsors will be, Blackberry, Palm Beach Plaza, Valero Retail and Hertz Lease.

All in all, the mega music event is expected to surpass all other events of previous years!



FRI. - JAN - 11

6 p.m. - 2 am: Inscription Tumba Contest 2013 - Hoffie Chona (Paradera)

7 p.m. - Children's Queen Election Noord (Centro di Bario Noord)

Children's Queen's Election Dakota (Centro di Bario Dakota)

SAT. - JAN - 12

6:30 p.m. - Aruba's Children's & Youth Calypso and RoadmarchContest (Aruba Entertainment Center)

SUN. - JAN - 13

1 p.m. - San Nicolas Balloon Parade - San Nicolas

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"Exclusive coverage the Golden Globes Awards"

by Noel de Souza

THE MORNING NEWS is proud to welcome a series of exclusive interviews from Special Guest Correspondent Noel de Souza. Noel is an actor and journalist, and a member of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, as a correspondent for The Times of India. As one of the planners of the upcoming Golden Globe Awards 2013, which will be broadcast live this Sunday, January 13, he has a unique perspective on this glittering event, considered a "predictor" of who will claim the Oscars later this year.

MAIN COURSE

Smoked Flat Iron Steak with Sweet Pickled Mini Pepper
 &
California Olive-Orange Marinated Pacific Sea Bass with Caramelized Mint Fennel
 Serves 4

Smoked Flat Iron Steak
 12 oz. Smoked Flat Iron Steak (3 oz. per serving)
 2 whole Mini Sweet Peppers (cut in halves)
 1 cup Water
 1/3 cup Sugar
 1/4 cup Vinegar
 1 tbsp White Peppercom
 2 tbsp. Salt
 3 tbsp California Extra Virgin Olive Oil
 6 oz. Cherry Wood
 1 oz. Mixed Dried Herbs
 Salt and Pepper to Taste

To pickle the sweet peppers, combine the water, sugar, vinegar, white peppercorn and salt to a boil. Once the mixture is boiling, remove from heat and let it cool. Pour the mixture into a large bowl and soak the sweet peppers for 30 minutes. Smoke steak with cherry wood and mix dried herbs. Grill to desired temperature. Garnish the steak with the pickled halved sweet peppers.

Pacific Sea Bass
 12 oz. Pacific Sea Bass (3 oz. per serving)
 1 1/2 cups Fresh Orange Juice
 3 tbsp California Extra Virgin Olive Oil
 1/3 cups Sugar
 3 tbsp White Balsamic Vinegar
 1/4 cup Vegetable Stock
 2 tbsp Fresh Mint
 1 slice Fennel
 Salt & Pepper to Taste

For the Olive-Orange Marinade, pour the Orange Juice and reduce on a saucepan by 1/3. Mix olive oil and lime juice in a separate bowl and pour in reduced orange juice to bowl using a whisk. Pour the mixture onto the sea bass marinating both sides and let it sit for 2 hours in the marinade. Pre-Heat Oven to 357 degrees. Bake the pre-marinated Sea Bass at 357 degrees for 15 minutes. Sauté the sliced fennel with olive oil in a pan until you reach a soft texture to the fennel, put aside. In the same sauce pan, pour the sugar and toast until lightly browned, deglaze the sugar with balsamic vinegar and vegetable stock, reduce the mixture while stirring. Add the pre-sautéed fennel and mint and coat the deglazed sugar mixture to fennel and mint. Salt & pepper to taste. Garnish the sea bass with caramelized sautéed fennel and mint.

What do George Clooney, Will Ferrel, Jennifer Garner, Jennifer Lopez, Debra Messing, Jeremy Renner, Meryl Streep and Kerry Washington have in common?

They have all either been nominated or have won one or several Golden Globes over the years. The 70th annual Golden Globe ceremonies which will be held at

the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills on January the 13th and each of these illustrious performers will be presenters, handing over the Golden Globe to the lucky winners.

The show will be hosted by Tina Fey and Amy Poehler.

Continue on pg 5

Chill Flip Flop Party will be a highlight event of Carnival 59

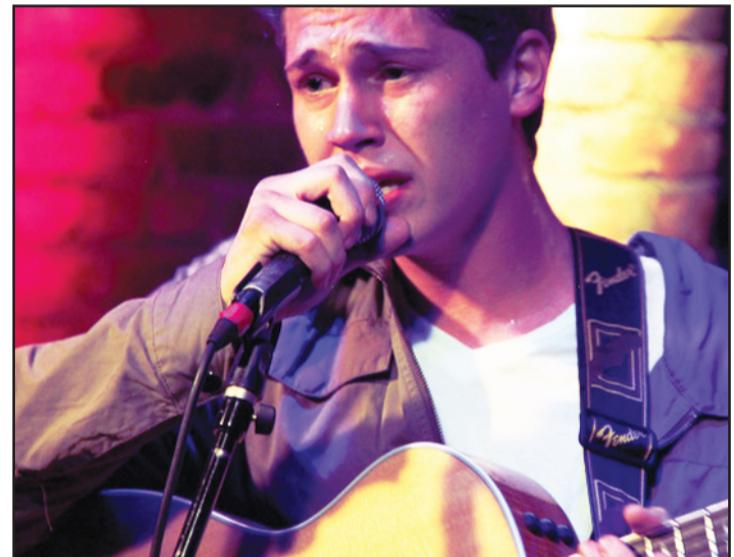
Two years ago Balashi Brewery partnered with Stichting Arubaanse Carnaval, SAC, to host the first of what is now considered one of the most fun carnival parties of the season, the Chill Flip Flop beach party. They introduced their new Balashi Chill, which was an instant success, and turned hotel row into beach for the event.

This year, the 3rd annual Chill Flip Flop Party will capture all the fun of Carnaval on Sunday, January 20, from 4:00 PM until midnight, while being an actual beach party at the Surfside Marina in Oranjestad. Balashi is also taking this opportunity to introduce their new, 8 oz "pony cans," of Chill, which fit nicely in the hand and can easily be finished while the beer is still icy cold.

The event will host a parade of major local musical talent and international singing sensation Cris Cab as guest featured performer. DJ Big Rig, Upgrade Music, DatanapiK and DJ Nutzbeatz will keep the vibe flowing all day, until the grand finale, when Cris Cab will demonstrate why he is the hottest young Cuban performer in Miami.

Partygoers will receive great Chill logo gifts along with their purchase of cases of the new pony cans of beer. Sunglasses, hats, tee shirts, tank tops, booty shorts and can holders will be distributed. During the first half hour of the event, from 4:00 to 4:30 PM only, receive a gift of a beautiful, full size, unfolding thermal cooler on wheels with a pull handle, making it easy to take your beer with you wherever you go.

This is a beach party above all, and to emphasize this, a featured event will be a fashion show by bikini spe-



Cris Cab



Marketing Manager Vanessa Hollander shows off the new pony can

cialists, Amar Swimwear of Aruba, with island models competing to be their Amar Bikini Model of 2013.

The best news yet is entrance to the event is entirely FREE; there is no fee to join in a great afternoon of carnival fun, musical entertainment and bodacious bodies on the beach, courtesy of Aruba's National Brewery, Balashi. Everyone is invited to Surfside to enjoy the ambiance and just Chill!

By Rosalie Klein



"Exclusive coverage the Golden Globes Awards"

by Noel de Souza
Continued from pg 4

DESSERT
Cappuccino Mousse Cake
10-inch cake serves 12

Assembly:

- Place a sheet of parchment paper onto a half sheet pan and put a 10 - inch diameter ring mold on top of the pan.
- Prepare the Chocolate Génoise (see below for recipe.) Use a long serrated knife to remove a thin layer of the top and bottom crust of the sponge cake. Discard the crust.
- Cut the remaining sponge into three equal portions.
- Place the first Chocolate Sponge circle into the bottom of the ring mold and proceed to brush generously with approximately 1/3 of the prepared Coffee Syrup (see below for recipe.)
- Add the Coffee Rum Mousse (see below for recipe) and spread evenly with a hand held spatula.
- Place the second Chocolate Sponge Cake on top of the Coffee Mousse and proceed to brush on another 1/3 of the Coffee Syrup.
- Add the Kahlúa Mousse (see below for recipe) and spread evenly with a hand held spatula.
- Place the last Chocolate Sponge Cake on top of the Kahlúa Mousse and brush on the remaining Coffee Syrup.
- Place the filled Ring into the freezer until set, usually 2 - 4 hours.
- Remove the ring from the freezer and allow thawing for 30 minutes.
- Use a small straight knife to cut around the edge of the cake to help separate from the ring.
- Remove the ring and place the Cappuccino Cake onto a serving plate.
- Proceed to encrō the cake with a layer of Whip Cream and decorate with some Chocolate Shavings.
- Allow to completely thaw before using and serve cool.
- Dust with a small amount of Cocoa Powder before serving.
- Can be saved in the cooler for 3 days or frozen for 2 months.

Chocolate Génoise:

4 Eggs
1 Egg Yolks
4 oz. Sugar
1 oz. Melted Butter
2.5 oz. All Purpose Flour
.5 oz. Corn Starch
1 oz. Dark Cocos Powder

- Scale the Eggs, Egg Yolk, & the Sugar into a sauce pot.
- Proceed to heat up on the stove while continuously stirring with a hand held wire whisk until the Sugar is fully dissolved.
- Transfer the contents into a mixing bowl and proceed to whip at a high rate of speed until cool and fluffy.
- Sift the Flour, Starch and Cocoa Powder and along with the melted Butter, carefully fold into the fluffy Eggs.
- Yield one 10" ring, bake at 375° F. for 25 minutes. Set aside to cool until ready to use. The Chocolate Génoise can also be wrapped in plastic wrap and kept frozen for later use.

Coffee Syrup:

7 oz. Sugar
5 oz. Water
3.5 oz. Espresso

- Scale all of the Ingredients into a sauce pot and bring to a boil.
- Remove from the heat and allow to cool before using, can be saved in the cooler for 2 weeks.
- Bloom the Gelatin in ice water.
- Bring the Espresso to a boil.
- Add the chopped Dark Chocolate and the soft Gelatin. Stir until smooth.
- Scale the Sugar, Egg Yolk, and Rum into a sauce pot. Proceed to heat up while continuously stirring with a hand held wire whisk. Do not boil, only heat until Sugar dissolves.
- Scale the Mascarpone Cheese into a bowl and stir through with a hand held wire whisk. Mix together with the Sugar-Eggs-Rum mixture.
- Combine the Rum Mascarpone Cream mixture with the White Chocolate mixture and strain through a sieve.
- Whip the Cream to a soft peak and fold into the above mixture.

Kahlúa Mousse:

3 pc Gelatin Sheets (Gold)
1.5 oz. Water
2.75 oz. White Chocolate Coins
.75 oz. Sugar
1 pc. Fresh Egg Yolk
1.5 oz. Kahlúa
4.5 oz. Soft Mascarpone Cheese
8 oz. Soft Whipping Cream

- Bring the water to a boil.
- Add the chopped white chocolate and the soft Gelatin. Stir until smooth.
- Scale the Sugar, Egg Yolk, and Kahlúa into a sauce pot and proceed to heat up while continuously stirring with a hand held wire whisk. Do not boil, only heat up until Sugar is dissolved.
- Scale the Mascarpone Cheese into a bowl and stir through with a hand held wire whisk. Mix together with the Sugar-Eggs-Kahlúa mixture.
- Combine the Kahlúa Mascarpone Cream mixture with the White Chocolate mixture and strain through a sieve.
- Whip the Cream to a soft peak and fold into the above mixture.

Full recipes are also available at <http://www.beverlyhilton.com>

It's a fun filled night and it is known as the party of the year in Hollywood circles, with every one scrambling to get invited.

Before the ceremonies begin celebrities and the invited guest mingle and sip Moet & Chandon champagne and then sit down to dinner. If you would like to eat what the stars are eating that night, here are the recipes which will help you prepare the identical meal. You can enjoy it while you and your friends sit in front of your TV and watch the show.



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Banking group IIF sees liquidity peaking

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The huge wave of liquidity unleashed by major central banks in the past four years to fight crises could be peaking, a top official of the IIF global banking group said Thursday.

"The liquidity cycle is beginning to turn," said Hung Tran, first deputy managing director of the Institute of International Finance.

Financial markets have benefited significantly from the flood of liquidity, which

drove a lot of the investment activity as investors searched for yield amid a low interest-rate environment, Tran said.

And liquidity remains plentiful and seems to be increasing all the time, he said, pointing to the Federal Reserve's expansion last month of a third round of quantitative easing, to a monthly \$85 billion in bond purchases.

"But the music has started to stop," Tran said at a news briefing at the Washington

headquarters of the association, which represents more than 450 financial institutions worldwide.

Tran highlighted that participants at the Federal Open Market Committee's December meeting were considering ending QE3 sooner than the end of this year, according to the minutes of the meeting.

Outlining a scenario that could prompt the FOMC to pull the plug, Tran said the US economy would be doing

"not super, but decent."

The housing sector would be making a strong comeback, manufacturing exports would be doing well and state and local governments would be adding jobs this year, reversing layoffs that had acted as a drag on the recovery.

In Europe, several banks have recovered, he noted, thanks to supportive actions from the European Central Bank.

Under his European scenario, several banks will de-

cide to repay their ECB loans ahead of the three-year deadline because "they may not need the money."

They borrowed the money because of fears that they could lose access to markets due to a lack of enough liquidity, not because they needed it for lending, he explained.

"In the investor community, you see the end of QE3 here, the repayment of ECB liquidity there, meaning the liquidity cycle is beginning to turn."



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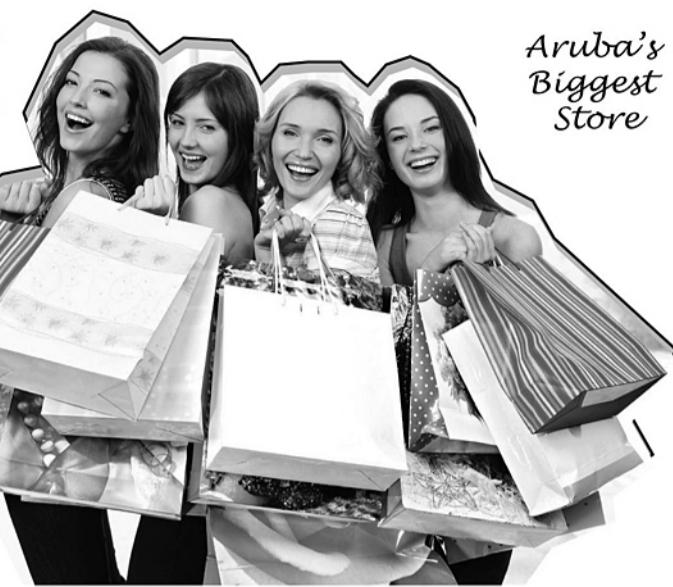
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Venezuela stages inauguration rally without Chavez

CARACAS (AFP) - With cancer-stricken President Hugo Chavez hospitalized in Cuba, thousands of flag-waving Venezuelans in red shirts filled the streets of Caracas Thursday to inaugurate his new term without him.

Bands played patriotic anthems from street-side stages as people poured out of buses to make their way on foot toward the Miraflores presidential palace for a symbolic swearing-in of the people in place of Chavez, who is too sick to take the oath of office.

Shouts of "Chavez, Chavez!" and the anti-opposition slogan "They will not return" could be heard, as Chavista militants stoked the

crowd. On one stage, an evangelical religious service was underway.

"I love the president," said Pedro Brito, a 60-year-old law professor, in a red T-shirt with the slogan "I am Chavez."

"He has done a lot for poor people, the ones who had no place to sleep or food to eat. He has shown us how to love the country."

Vice President Nicolas Maduro hosted a meeting of leftist Latin America presidents and other foreign representatives who have come to show support for the Chavez government in a period of deep uncertainty about the future.

The Supreme Court cleared the ailing Chavez to indefinitely postpone his swearing-in and said his existing administration could remain in office until he is well enough to take the oath.

It was the last legal hurdle to a government plan for resolving the vacuum created by Chavez's illness that met fierce resistance from the opposition, which had argued it was unconstitutional.

The opposition kept a low profile on Thursday but criticized the government for not declaring Chavez temporarily incapacitated.

Leopold Lopez, an opposition leader, called it "an indefinite situation in which we



Supporters of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez gather outside Miraflores presidential palace during an event in homage of Chavez, in Caracas

can be without a president, and without clear signs that the president is governing."

Henrique Capriles, who ran unsuccessfully against Chavez in the October presidential elections, accepted the unanimous ruling as "binding" but said it did not end the uncertainties facing the oil-rich country.

"The excuses are over, Mr Maduro. Now it falls to you to assume the responsibility of the office and to govern," Capriles said.

But even without the official ceremony, and despite

deep political divisions here, Venezuela's government prepared for a day of celebration of Chavez, who won re-election in October by an 11-point margin, despite his health battles.

In televised speeches, on Twitter and in work places, the government has made blanket appeals for Venezuelans to turn out.

The military announced it was reinforcing security in the city and at other strategic points to ensure the day was observed peacefully.

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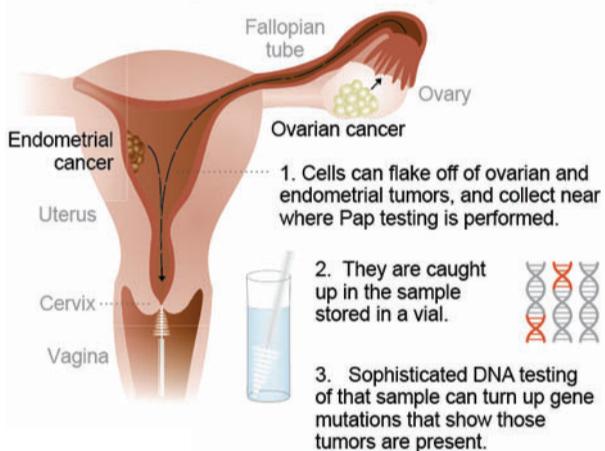
EARLY BIRD SPECIAL

Health & Living

Pap test could screen for ovarian and uterine cancer

Hunting ovarian and uterine cancers

Millions of women get Pap tests to check for cervical cancer. Scientists at Johns Hopkins University are trying to expand use of the test to spot some other cancers, too.



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Turns out the pap smear -- a routine test women undergo each year or two to screen for cervical cancer -- could help screen for other types of cancer as well, a new study said this week.

A new test takes the same fluid swab from the cervix and tests it for the presence of certain cancer-specific mutations.

The scientists were hoping to catch cases of ovarian and endometrial cancer -- two common and deadly cancers which, until now, were not able to be screened for routinely.

In the pilot study, the test was able to accurately detect each of 24 endometrial cancers, a 100 percent success rate.

The test also detected nine of 22 ovarian cancers, for a 41 percent success rate during the pilot study. And in no cases were healthy women in the control group mis-identified as having cancer during the study.

The scientists cautioned that the process must be tested on a much larger scale before being made available to the public.

But if their findings hold up, the test could be a powerful tool in fighting these two cancers of the ovaries and the uterus lining.

Ovarian cancer causes more deaths than any other cancer of the female reproductive system, the CDC notes, adding that treatment is most effective when it is caught in its early stages.

Likewise, endometrial cancer is the most commonly diagnosed gynecologic cancer, the CDC said, and is best treated when caught early.

"Genomic-based tests could help detect ovarian and endometrial cancers early enough to cure more of them," Johns Hopkins graduate student Yuxuan Wang said in a statement.

She noted that the cost of the test could be similar to current cervical fluid HPV testing.

He explained that the test works because the cervical fluid collected during the pap test occasionally contains cells shed from ovaries or the uterine lining.

So it followed that any cancer cells present in those organs could also be present in

the cervical fluid.

But the 44 women included in the pilot study had already been diagnosed with either endometrial or ovarian cancer.

The test must now be conducted on women who appear healthy, to determine if it could detect cancers in their early stages.

They also aim to search for ways to increase the test's accuracy in detecting ovarian cancer.

FDA Recommends Lower Bedtime Dose for Zolpidem

-- The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced yesterday a new recommendation that bedtime doses of the sedative-hypnotic zolpidem be reduced, on the basis of data showing morning blood levels in some patients may be high enough to impair activities requiring alertness, such as driving. The recommendation applies to zolpidem products approved for bedtime use, marketed as generics and under the brand names Ambien, Ambien CR, Edluar, and Zolpimist. Data show the risk for morning impairment is highest with extended-release forms of these drugs, and women appear to be more susceptible to this effect because they eliminate zolpidem more slowly than men, a statement from the FDA notes.

(More information on the announcement is available on the FDA Web site.)

Insulin breakthrough could see end to needles

SYDNEY (AFP) - Breakthrough research mapping how insulin works at a molecular level could lead to new diabetes treatments and end daily needle jabs, helping hundreds of millions of sufferers.

A joint US-Australian team said it has been able to lay out for the first time in atomic detail how the insulin hormone binds to the surface of cells, triggering the passage of glucose from the bloodstream to be stored as energy.

Lead researcher Mike Lawrence said the discovery, more than 20 years in the making and using powerful x-ray beams, would unlock new and more effective kinds of diabetes medication.

Lawrence said the team's study, published in the latest edition of Nature, had revealed a "molecular handshake" between the insulin and its receptor on the surface of cells.

"Both insulin and its receptor undergo rearrangement as they interact -- a piece of insulin folds out and key pieces within the receptor move to engage the insulin hormone," he said of the "unusual" binding method.

Understanding how insulin attaches to cells was key to de-

veloping "novel" treatments of diabetes, a chronic condition in which the pancreas does not produce enough insulin or the body cannot use it properly.

"The generation of new types of insulin have been limited by our inability to see how insulin docks into its receptor in the body," Lawrence said.

"This discovery could conceivably lead to new types of insulin that could be given in ways other than injection, or an insulin that has improved properties or longer activity so that it doesn't need to be taken as often."

Importantly, Lawrence said the discovery could also have ramifications for the treatment of diabetes in developing nations, allowing for the creation of more stable insulins that do

not need refrigeration.

It could also have applications in the treatment of cancer and Alzheimer's, with insulin playing a role in both diseases, he added.

There are an estimated 347 million diabetes sufferers worldwide and diagnoses are increasing, particularly in developing countries, due to growing levels of obesity and physical inactivity.

It is expected to be the seventh leading cause of death in the world by 2030, with the World Health Organisation projecting total deaths from diabetes will rise by more than 50 percent in the next 10 years.

Complications of diabetes include heart disease, blindness, limb amputation and kidney failure.

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Sci-Tech

Skype to replace Microsoft Messenger in March



SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - Microsoft sent out word that it will "retire" its Messenger online chat feature on March 15 and replace it with the Skype Internet telephony service it bought last year.

Microsoft sent an email message advising Messenger users to update to Skype using their same account information in advance of the deadline.

"You'll be able to instant message and video chat...just like before, and also discover new ways of staying in touch with Skype on your mobile

and tablet," Microsoft said in the message.

The Redmond, Washington-based technology giant announced in November that it was shutting down Messenger in favor of merging users into Skype.

The transition began late last year with the release of Skype 6.0 software that lets people sign in to the online communication service using Microsoft accounts. Messenger will be shut off in every country but China.

Skype features include



LAS VEGAS (AFP) - With an app, a game or a gadget, technology startups and major companies across all sectors are trying to tackle some of the thorniest problems in health and medicine. The Consumer Electronics Show is filled with new gadgets to monitor fitness, detect problems and find solutions to health issues ranging from obesity to diabetes to rare medical conditions. One trend is "gamification," which uses a model from the video game industry to offer points and rewards to boost health and reduce costs. At CES, the world's biggest technology show, UnitedHealthcare unveiled a joint effort with Konami Digital Entertainment to reduce childhood obesity through a new dance game that challenges youngsters while monitoring things like body mass index and caloric burn rate. The program adds game mechanics and game psychology to make the experience more engaging and immersing.

video calls and being able to call mobile phones from computers, as well as being able to connect with friends at leading social network Facebook.

A Skype feature on Facebook, a social network in which Microsoft owns a small stake, allows for multi-person conversations and instant one-on-one video calls with friends.

Skype users can make low-cost or free phone calls over the Internet using their computers or smartphones. Skype bypasses the standard telephone network by channeling voice and video c



BEIRUT (AFP) - The worst storms in a decade left swathes of Israel and Jordan under a blanket of snow and parts of Lebanon blacked out on Thursday, bringing misery to a region accustomed to temperate climates. Freezing temperatures and floods since Sunday have claimed at least 11 lives across the region and exacerbated the plight of hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees huddled in tented camps in Jordan, Turkey and Lebanon. Media reports said the cold weather originated in Russia, with one daily dubbing the storm "Olga," and authorities urged citizens to remain indoors. (photo Jordan city of Amman)

US schoolgirl loses ID locator chip battle

CHICAGO (AFP) - A federal judge has dismissed a Texas girl's objection to locator chips in student ID badges at a public high school in a case that raises concerns about the erosion of privacy and civil liberties.

Andrea Hernandez, 15, and her father told school officials they oppose the use of locator chips on religious grounds.

Officials at San Antonio's Northside school district said they were willing to give her a chipless badge, but warned the straight-A student she would be expelled from her prestigious selective-enrollment school if she did not wear it.

Hernandez refused, saying the new badges are the "mark of the beast" and that to be made to wear one equates to forcing her to "fall in line" and endorse the program.

Judge Orlando Garcia said "The accommodation offered by the district is not only reasonable, it removes plaintiff's religious objection from legal scrutiny all together."

Similar tracking programs

are being implemented at schools across the nation. While they can help officials locate students in an emergency, although some said the prime motive is money.

Schools are awarded funds based upon attendance and the chips allow administrators to count students as present even if they don't make it to their homeroom because they're chatting in the hallway with a friend.

"Because the technology is

easy to acquire, it is vulnerable to hacking, which could allow someone outside the school to monitor a student's off-campus whereabouts if they obtained the student's tracking number," said Dotty Griffith, director of public education for the ACLU's Texas chapter.

Since the ID badges are also used to purchase food in the cafeteria, check books out of the library and participate in after school programs, Hernandez was denied access to many school activities.

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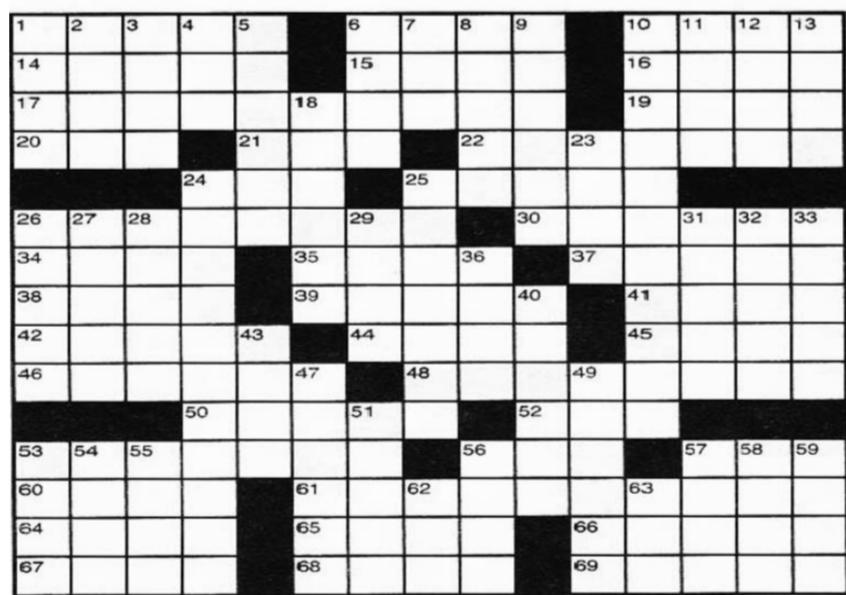
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ACROSS

- Stereotype
- Go on a cruise
- Sputtered out, as a fire
- Poet Frank
- Focus of Amneris's jealousy
- Talented
- AKA The Flash
- Repulsive
- Decline
- Encountered
- Ann Landers, for one
- Golfing term
- Like most kilts
- Woo with music
- Opens
- du jour
- '60s TV producer Ivan

- Dutchman's shoe
- Seating section
- Wascally wabbit pursuer
- Naught
- Nautical word
- Costume for "Coppélia"
- Uncovered
- Alley item
- Placemats' place
- Star —
- Jujube
- Knotty craft
- Ginger —
- Witty saying
- Run — (go berserk)
- AKA Batman
- Shower room floor piece
- Sing merrily



- Colonel Doubleday
- Get word
- Immature newts
- Hanker

- Leaf section
- Monomaniacal captain
- Unpleasant remark
- Sin
- Nonprofessional
- Curing substance
- Have the vapors
- Platonic category
- Two-seated carriage
- AKA The

- Incredible Hulk
- Nile wading bird
- Pronoun for Fifi
- Symbol on a rural sign

- Make bubbly
- Bordeaux products
- AKA Spider-Man
- Alter
- Sound of a water balloon landing
- Marry secretly
- Tease mercilessly
- Knucklehead
- Concerning
- Musical piece
- Awfully expensive
- Caterpillar hair, e.g.
- Barney or Betty
- Rock Hall of Famer Turner
- Spry
- Freedom of action
- Sans — (type style)
- School subject, for short
- Girlfriend: Fr.
- Carbonated beverage
- Makes a move
- Talkative bird
- Outstanding person
- Aquatic flier
- Preceding mo.
- Playwright Burrows

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3	4	9	7	1	5	6	2	8
7	2	8	6	3	4	9	5	1
2	9	1	3	4	7	8	6	5
8	3	4	5	6	9	1	7	2
5	6	7	2	8	5	3	4	1
4	8	6	1	7	2	5	9	3
1	5	3	4	9	6	2	8	7

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A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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Netherlands	EUR	230.59	232.69	235.90
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Denmark	DKK	30.23	30.95	31.86
Norway	NOK	30.67	31.39	32.56
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Global food prices drop UN agency

ROME (AFP) - Global food prices fell by 7.0 percent in 2012 from the level the previous year, the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation said on Thursday, assuaging worries a few months ago that the world could be heading for a food crisis. The FAO added that prices had fallen in December for the third month in a row.

The Rome-based FAO's Food Price Index averaged 212 points in 2012, a drop of 7.0 percent owing largely to falls in the prices of sugar, dairy products and oil.

According to the FAO's index, a monthly measure of changes in a basket of food commodities, prices dropped in December by 1.1 percent

to 209 points, continuing a descent from the 263 points registered in August.

"The result marks a reversal from the situation last July, when sharply rising prices prompted fears of a new food crisis," said Jomo Sundaram from FAO's Economic and Social Development Department.

"But international coordination...as well as flagging demand in a stagnant international economy, helped ensure the price spike was short-lived and calmed markets so that 2012 prices ended up below the previous year's levels," he said.

After surging between July and September 2012 due to uncertainties over produc-

7% in 2012:

tion and tightening supplies, cereal export prices then dropped because of weaker demand for feed and industrial uses.

The sharpest declines registered in 2012 were for sugar (17.1 percent), dairy products (14.5 percent) and oils (10.7 percent), while decreases were much more modest for cereals (2.4 percent) and meat (1.1 percent).

In December, the FAO oils index averaged 197 points (down 1.9 percent on November), while the meat index averaged 176 points and the sugar index averaged 274 points -- both marginally down on the previous month.

The dairy index averaged 197 points -- 0.9 percent higher than in November.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer



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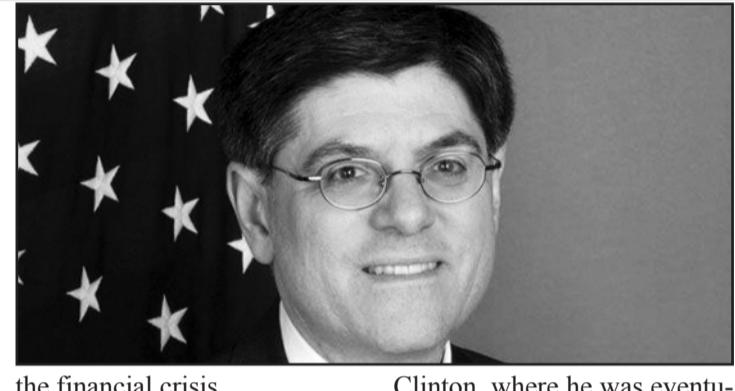
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Finance

Treasury to test Lew's mettle as budget guru

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Jack Lew's two previous stints as White House budget director and his reputation as a skilled deal-maker will be put to the test now that President Barack Obama has nominated him to be Treasury secretary.

With Republicans gearing up for a showdown with the White House over the country's massive debt, Lew has been picked to replace the pugnacious Timothy Geithner, who steered the Obama administration through



the financial crisis.

The nomination requires Senate confirmation.

Currently White House chief-of-staff, Lew, 57, is a veteran of the treacherous politics of Washington, and is seen as having a keen understanding of domestic and international economics.

Plus, he has already been deeply involved in budget fights between the White House and Congressional Republicans, as Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and, since last year, Obama's chief of staff.

A Harvard graduate, Lew has spent his entire professional life in the US capital since 1979, except for an eight-year span during the Republican presidency of George W. Bush.

He started out as a policy adviser to the Democratic speaker of the US House of Representatives, Thomas "Tip" O'Neill. During that period, Lew also earned a law degree from Georgetown University.

He joined a large Washington law firm when O'Neill retired in 1987 and in 1993 was recruited into the White House of Democratic president Bill

Clinton, where he was eventually posted to the OMB.

In 1998 he was named director of the OMB, where he helped to manage tough negotiations with a hostile Republican Congress and achieved four consecutive years of budget surpluses, the first since 1960.

When Bush became president in 2001, Lew moved back to his native New York City, where he joined the management team of New York University.

In 2007-2008 he moved to Citigroup, where he notably headed a speculative fund and reaped an annual salary that topped \$1 million.

Before returning to the OMB in 2010, he served as deputy secretary for management and resources under Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

Lew, an Orthodox Jew, grew up in New York City and is a married father of two adult children.

He has always been low-key in public. According to a recent profile of him in The New York Times, he brings his own lunch to work -- a cheese sandwich and an apple -- and eats at his desk.



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Tom Cruise turns down Psy's Gangnam challenge



SEOUL (AFP) - Tom Cruise turned down a chance to try out his "Gangnam Style" dance skills Thursday, despite topping South Korean rapper Psy's list of celebrities who should attempt the signature horse-riding dance.

When asked last year which person he would most like to see "go Gangnam Style", Psy named the "Mission Impossible" star as his first choice.

Cruise, who was in Seoul to promote his new film, hailed Psy as "quite a sensation" but declined to follow the likes of UN secretary general Ban Ki-moon in imitating the singer's dance moves.

"He does it better than me," Cruise told reporters during a press conference to

promote his movie "Jack Reacher" which will be released in South Korea next week.

"I'm very happy for his success. Everyone has really enjoyed it," Cruise added.

Psy made Internet history shortly before Christmas when his "Gangnam Style" video clocked more than one billion views on YouTube.

Cruise was one of many celebrities around the world who took to social networks last year to promote Psy's video as it became a viral sensation.

"Think @Psy_oppa would make a good future co-star Gangnam Style?" the Hollywood star tweeted last September.

Brickell Bay Sand Beach lounge featuring live music this Sunday



Marisela will be heating up Palm Beach for a very cool night each weekend beginning this Sunday, January 6, from 6:00 to 9:00 PM. This is a performer known for "bringing down the house," so don't miss this rare opportunity to enjoy some great entertainment and discover Aruba's most stylish new nightspot.

Every Wednesday, The Ryders will be rockin' the house from 9:00 PM until midnight. Enjoy two for one drinks on all brands, even premium, from 4:00 to 7:00 PM every Monday through Thursday, and from 5:00 to 7:00 PM on



Friday and Saturday, with an additional late night "Happy Hour" on the weekends from 10:00 to 11:00 PM.

Brickell Bay Sand Beach lounge is located directly across the street from the South Beach Center. If you are wondering what is new and hip on Aruba, this is it!

Nominees in main Oscars categories

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Here are the nominees in the main categories for this year's Oscars, to be handed out at the climax of Hollywood's annual awards season on February 24.

- **Best picture:** "Amour,"

"Argo," "Beasts of the Southern Wild," "Django Unchained," "Les Misérables," "Life of Pi," "Lincoln," "Silver Linings Playbook," "Zero Dark Thirty."

- **Best director:** Michael Haneke for "Amour," Benh

Zeitlin for "Beasts of the Southern Wild," Ang Lee for "Life of Pi," Steven Spielberg for "Lincoln," and David O. Russell for "Silver Linings Playbook."

- **Best leading actor:** Bradley Cooper for "Silver Linings Playbook," Daniel Day-Lewis for "Lincoln," Hugh Jackman for "Les Misérables," Joaquin Phoenix for "The Master," and Denzel Washington for "Flight."

- **Best leading actress:** Jessica Chastain for "Zero Dark Thirty," Jennifer Lawrence for "Silver Linings Playbook," Emmanuelle Riva for "Amour," Quvenzhane Wallis for "Beasts of the Southern Wild," and Naomi Watts for "The Impossible."

- **Best supporting actor:** Alan Arkin for "Argo," Robert De Niro for "Silver Linings Playbook," Philip Seymour Hoffman for "The Master," Tommy Lee Jones



"Les Misérables": ex-convict Jean Valjean (Hugh Jackman) with "Cosette" (Isabelle Allen) an exploited and victimised child which he rescued and raises as his own daughter

for "Lincoln," and Christoph Waltz for "Django Unchained."

- **Best supporting actress:** Amy Adams for "The Master," Sally Field for "Lincoln," Anne Hathaway for "Les Misérables," Helen Hunt for "The Sessions," and Jacki Weaver for "Silver Linings Playbook."

- **Best foreign language film:** "Amour" (Austria), "Kon-Tiki" (Norway), "No" (Chile), "A Royal Affair" (Denmark) and "War Witch" (Canada).

- **Best animated feature:** "Brave," "Frankenweenie," "ParaNorman," "The Pirates! Band of Misfits" and "Wreck-It Ralph."



Canada's War Witch: Writer and Director Kim Nguyen paints a poignant and harrowing portrait of Komona, a 14-year-old girl (played by Rachel Mwanza) who has been kidnapped from her African village by rebels to become a child soldier. She escapes from the camp with an older albino soldier and experiences for the very first time the joys of a peaceful and loving life, but a fresh tragedy will force her to confront and fight the ghosts haunting her mind.

5 Burgers Aruba: Now your best breakfast bargain!



--A favorite stop for a great burger for lunch or dinner has just expanded their hours and menu to offer some of the best breakfast bargains to be found in Palm Beach. Owners Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. The couple's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu from an inter-

nationally known franchise with a "5", which now includes breakfast.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," believes Aaron. Upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy,

made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

However, beginning at 7 a.m., patrons can now order 2 eggs any style, (omelets with 3 fillings are \$7.99) toast and coffee with unlimited refills for the special introductory price of only \$4.49, (\$5.48, with bacon) or All-you-can-eat pancakes, for \$6.99, again, with free refills on fresh coffee. Breakfast is served until 11 a.m. Famous for their fries made from fresh potatoes, Aaron has been working for months on devising the most irresistible home fries recipe, chunky and tender with skins still on; after much testing and tasting, he got the thumbs up from his harshest critic, Rosie; so this is another treat you have to try.

A glance at their burger menu will certainly tempt you to return for lunch or dinner, to sample their famous specialty items such as the Gouda,



Farmer's or Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with Aarons' secret-recipe crispy onion rings. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jala-peño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato...whatever, the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of

fries is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!"

Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

5 Burgers is now open early until 10-ish at night; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district at now extra cost for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for either owner to sit and chat, sharing their knowledge of the island while making sure patrons are happy with their meal.

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

-- Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by



the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community

of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facil-

ties such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the

least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

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Baseball: Bonds, Clemens shut out in Hall induction



Barry Bonds and Roger Clemens

COOPERSTOWN, NY (AFP) - Barry Bonds and Roger Clemens, who starred during the so-called "steroid era", were both shutout yesterday in their attempt to get voted into Major League Baseball's Hall of Fame.

This is the first time since 1996 that the Baseball Writ-

ers' Association of America will not be electing anyone to the Hall of Fame, including Bonds or Clemens who both had their careers tarnished by their alleged use of performance-enhancing drugs.

All-time home run king Bonds and seven-time Cy

Young Award winner as the top pitcher Clemens were on the ballot for the first time.

"The standards for earning election to the Hall of Fame have been very high ever since the rules were created in 1936," said Hall of Fame president Jeff Idelson. "We realize the challenges voters are faced with in this era."

Eligible candidates needed to be named on 75 percent of the 569 ballots submitted by members of the BBWAA.

Houston Astros second baseman Craig Biggio came closest by nabbing 68 percent of the vote, finishing just 39 votes short of election.

This is the eighth election by the BBWAA that did not produce a Hall of Famer.

Other players that were shutout this year include outfielder Sammy Sosa and catcher Mike Piazza. Sosa is believed to have failed at least one drug test while Piazza was also a power hitter in the steroid era.

Bonds set the all-time mark in home runs with 762 over 22 seasons and established a single-season record for homers with 73 in 2001.

He was named on 206 ballots (36.2 percent), while Clemens, who played 24 seasons, was also named on about 200 ballots.

Bonds has denied knowingly using performance-enhancing drugs. He was convicted of one count of obstruction of justice for giving an evasive answer in 2003 to a grand jury probing banned drug use in baseball.

Clemens was acquitted of perjury charges stemming from congressional testimony during which he denied using drugs.

Biathlon: World Cup results



RUHPOLDING, Germany (AFP) : French Martin Fourcade shoots during the men 4x7.5 km relay at the Biathlon World Cup on January 10, 2013, in Ruhpolding, southern Germany. France won the competition, Norway placed second and Austria placed third.

MLB to test for HGH

NEW YORK (AFP) - Major League Baseball and the MLB Players Association said Thursday they will add random in-season blood testing for human growth hormone to the game's anti-doping programme.

The prior joint drug prevention and treatment programme allowed for each player to be subject to an unannounced blood test during spring training and an unannounced, random test in the offseason.

Major League Baseball, which has been randomly testing its minor league players for HGH since July 2010, will become the only major North American sport to blood test unionized players.

Records will also be kept on T/E (testosterone to epitestosterone) ratios of players to prevent the unauthorized use of synthetic testosterone.

"This agreement addresses critical drug issues and symbolizes Major League Baseball's continued vigilance against synthetic human growth hormone, testosterone and other performance-enhancing substances," MLB commissioner Bud Selig said.

"I am proud that our system allows us to adapt to the many evolving issues associated with the science and technology of drug testing."

The announcement comes a day after slugger Barry Bonds and pitcher Roger Clemens, who starred during the game's so-called "steroid era", were both shut out in voting for the Hall of Fame as for the first time since 1996 electors declined to name anyone to be inducted this year.

SPORT

Tennis: Monaco duo play record 70-point tiebreak

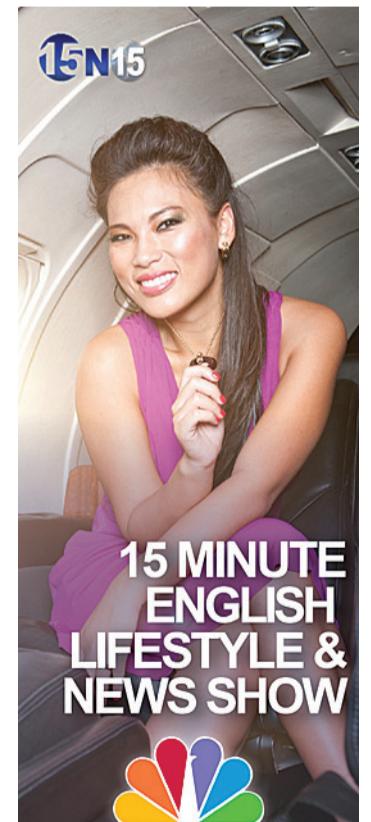
PARIS (AFP) - Monaco Davis Cup teammates Benjamin Balleret and Guillaume Couillard have gone into the tennis record books after playing out a 70-point tiebreak.

The pair made history at a \$10,000 International Tennis Federation third-tier clay-court event at Plantation, Florida, when they met in the final qualifying round.

Balleret won the match 7-6 (36/34), 6-1 as 37-year-old Couillard eventually wilted.

"Neither of us sensed the first set would last so long. We were both really tight, because we know each other so well. We didn't want to lose it. When we switched ends during the tie-break, with the score in the 20s and 30s, we were laughing," said Balleret, the world number 636.

The longest tie-break on record, at a tour-level event, came in the 1985 Wimbledon doubles first round when Michael Mortensen and Jan Gunnarsson beat John Frawley and Victor Pecci 6-4, 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (26/24).



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Tennis: Tomic knocks out defending champion Nieminen

SYDNEY (AFP) - Young Australian Bernard Tomic took a major step towards winning his first career ATP Tour title by downing defending champion Jarkko Nieminen at the Sydney International on Thursday.

The 20-year-old, ranked 64th, clawed back from dropping the opening set to oust the Finn, 6-7 (6/8), 6-4, 6-2 in a night quarter-final.

Tomic will take on third seed Andreas Seppi in Friday's semi after the Italian eliminated Spanish eighth seed Marcel Granollers 6-4, 7-5, in the last quarter-final.

Tomic's only previous tour semi-final ended in defeat



against Andy Murray last January in Brisbane.

The towering Kevin Anderson earlier Thursday became the first South African in nine years to reach the Sydney semi-finals with victory over Denis Istomin.

The 36th-ranked Anderson accounted for the Uzbek 6-4, 6-3 in 84 minutes and will face last year's finalist Julien Benneteau of France in Friday's last four.

The last South African to reach the final four was Wayne Ferreira.

Benneteau, who lost to Nieminen in last year's final, was too strong for American qualifier Ryan Harrison, winning 6-4, 6-2.

Tomic, a 2011 Wimbledon quarter-finalist, now has 17 victories from his past 19 matches in Australia as he heads into the Australian Open Grand Slam in Melbourne on Monday.

Tomic grabbed the only service break of the second set when Nieminen faltered trying to stay in the game at 4-5 down.

The Finn petered out in the final set and shanked his second serve on match point.

Anderson, who is 6ft 8in (2.03 metres) tall, is bidding to claim his third ATP title after victories in Delray Beach and Johannesburg.

Anderson, 26, is coming off a successful week at the mixed-teams Hopman Cup in

Perth for South Africa, where he beat Fernando Verdasco and John Isner.

Benneteau discovered on Thursday that he would be the beneficiary of American Isner's injury-enforced withdrawal from the Australian Open. The 35th-ranked Frenchman was elevated to the 32nd and last seeding.



CALAMA, (AFP) - Qatar's Nasser al-Attiyah sliced 10-time champion Stephane Peterhansel's Dakar Rally lead by over eight minutes on Thursday as the 2011 winner stormed to victory on the sixth stage. Al-Attiyah started the day at 9min 54sec behind defending champion Peterhansel but finished just 1min 18sec off the overall lead, winning his third stage of this year's event, a 438km special from Arica to Calama. The Qatari, in a Buggy, clocked 4hr 52min with Peterhansel, in a Mini, in second spot ahead of American NASCAR driver Robby Gordon, who was nearly 14 minutes behind al-Attiyah. South Africa's Giniel de Villiers, driving a Toyota, was sixth to stay third overall, 42 minutes behind the leader.

Alpine skiing: Vonn returns under shadow of doubt



Val D'Isere in December, she announced she was heading back to the United States for a month's rest.

Even then she remained in the headlines, revealing that she had been suffering from depression for a number of years.

"It's great to see all the other girls again at the World Cup and you, the media. I am really enthusiastic to be back," said Vonn, the overall World Cup champion in

2008, 2009, 2010 and 2012.

"The break was really important for me. After falling badly, my legs weren't strong enough. It's important to listen to your body and that is what I have done," she said.

Vonn is currently 725 points behind Slovenia's Tina Maze in the overall standings, but will start as favourite for Saturday's downhill and the super-G on Sunday.

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NBA: Spurs send Lakers to fifth-straight loss



San Antonio Spurs guard Tony Parker (9) gets fouled while shooting by Los Angeles Lakers center Robert Sacre (left)

SAN ANTONIO (AFP) - Tony Parker scored 24 points on 10-of-16 shooting and Manu Ginobili had 19 points as the San Antonio Spurs defeated the Los Angeles Lakers 108-105 on Wednesday.

Ginobili scored a crucial three-pointer with 43 seconds left and pulled down eight rebounds for the Spurs, who bounced back from a loss to the New Orleans Hornets on Monday.

Tiago Splitter finished

with 14 points and 14 rebounds for San Antonio, who improved to 15-2 at home this season. Stephen Jackson scored 14 points before leaving the game with 3:32 remaining in the fourth quarter.

Kobe Bryant ended with 27 points for the Lakers, who suffered their fifth consecutive defeat.

Metta World Peace added 23 points, eight rebounds and seven steals, while Earl Clark had 22 points and 13 rebounds.

The first-place Spurs improved to 28-10 with the help of their big three Parker, Ginobili and Tim Duncan.

Heading into Wednesday's contest Parker, Ginobili and Duncan were averaging a combined 49.4 points per game this season. Duncan had eight points, seven rebounds and five assists Wednesday.

The Lakers have been struggling but one bright aspect is they have now scored at least 100 points in 18 of their last 20 games.

The Lakers played without centre Dwight Howard (right shoulder) as well as forwards Pau Gasol (concussion).

Steve Nash finished with 14 points and nine assists against San Antonio. Nash notched his 10,000th career assist in a loss to Houston on Tuesday. He is the fourth fastest to reach the milestone in NBA history.

The Lakers have now lost four in a row versus the Spurs, including an early season 84-82 setback at home on November 13.

NHL: Owners approve new NHL agreement in locked-out season



Jeremy Jacobs announced the ratification

NEW YORK (AFP) - The National Hockey League has ratified a new collective bargaining agreement after a unanimous 30-0 vote by the board of governors yesterday.

The next step to getting the season started is for the players union to ratify the deal which should take place this weekend.

Board chairman and Boston Bruins owner Jeremy Jacobs announced the ratification while league commissioner Gary Bettman on Wednesday apologized for the 113-day lockout.

"I'm sorry. I know an apology or explanation isn't enough, but I owe you an apol-

ogy," said Bettman who has now overseen three labour disputes during his time in office.

"I read the letters, I followed the tweets. I read the blogs. We have a lot of work to do ... that effort begins today."

It is believed the players will vote to ratify the agreement, paving the way for training camps to begin sometime within a week.

The new collective bargaining agreement will last for 10 years, with an opt-out clause after eight seasons.

The players' share of hockey-related income will fall from 57 percent to a 50 percent with the owners also getting 50 percent.

The salary cap for the upcoming season will also reportedly be \$70.2 million with a minimum payroll of \$44 million. The salary cap will drop to \$64.3 million for the 2013-14 season.

Bettman has previously stated that a regular-season schedule of at least 48 games must begin by January 19. The existing 2012-13 NHL schedule had already been cancelled through January 14.

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